Prelim Bits 18-12-2018

IMPRESS Scheme

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- Impactful Policy Research in Social Sciences (IMPRESS) scheme has been launched to promote Social Science Research in the country.
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- The broad objectives of the scheme are:
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i. To identify and fund research proposals in social sciences with maximum impact on the governance and society.
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ii. To ensure selection of projects through a transparent, competitive process on online mode.
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iii. To provide opportunity for social science researchers in all the Central and State Universities and private institutions with 12(B) status conferred by UGC.
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- The Indian Council of Social Science and Research (ICSSR) is the project implementing agency.
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- Where 1500 research projects will be awarded for 2 years to support the social science research in the higher educational institutions and to enable research to guide policy making.
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10 Monuments adopted under ‘Adopt a Heritage’ project

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- The ‘Adopt A Heritage: Apni Dharohar, Apni Pehchaan’ scheme is a collaborative effort by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Culture, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and State/UTs Governments.
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- It focuses development and maintenance of tourist amenities at heritage sites and making them tourist friendly, to enhance tourism potential and cultural importance in a planned and phased manner.
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- The Project envisages involvement of Private/Public Companies / Organizations and Individuals to adopt Monuments, Natural Heritage Sites and other Tourist Sites in the country, primarily under CSR for funding.
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- The 10 monuments adopted under the scheme are – Red Fort,
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- Gandikota Fort, Gangotri Temple and Trail to Gaumukh, Mt.Stok Kangri Trek in Ladakh, Jantar Mantar, Surajkund, Qutub Minar, Ajanata caves, Leh Palace, Hazara Rama Temple in Hampi.
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Eklavya Model Residential Schools

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- To boost educational infrastructure in tribal areas, 462 new Eklavya Model Residential Schools will be set up in all blocks with over 50% tribal population and over 20,000 tribals.
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- The CCEA has approved a financial cost of Rs. 2242.03 crore during 2018-19 and 2019-20 for rolling out the revamped scheme.
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- Apart from school building including hostels and staff quarters, provision fora playground, students' computer lab, teacher resource room etc. are also included in the EMRSs.
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- An autonomous Society under Ministry of Tribal Affairs will look after the running of the EMRSs
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- Also an additional 20% of the grant would be provided towards construction cost in North East, hilly areas, difficult areas and areas affected by Left Wing Extremism.
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India’s First Railway University

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- The National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI) in Vadodara, Gujarat is the first railway university in India and third such university in the world after Russia and China.
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- At present it has two under-graduate programmes - B.Sc. in Transportation Technology and BBA programme in Transportation Management.
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- The university also aims to start master’s programme from 2019-20 academic session in areas such as Transportation and Systems Design, Transport Systems Engineering, Transport Policy and Economics, among others.
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- The Ministry of Railways is funding the university and has sanctioned Rs 4.21 billion for next five years.
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Source: PIB, Business Standard

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